The Henerable the Common Council of the City of New York:

GENTLEMEN: The distinguished position of Mayor
of the City to which I have been elected by my felwerligens, imposes upon me highly responsible as
well as most arduous duties, and I cannot better
evince my appreciation of the generous confidence
they have thus reposed in me than by devoting my
carnest efforts toward securing for them an honest,
efficient and economical administration of the City
Boverument.

Revertment.

I shall at all times be ready to cooperate with you in any action tending to promote the security, prosperly and good government of the city, expecting at the same time to receive your cordial support in helperformance of my duty to suggest to you.

It is made my duty by the Charter to communicate to you, "a statement of the condition of the city in relation to its government, finances and improvement," and also "to recommend such measures as I may deem expedient, connected with its police, security, health, cleanliness and ornament."

Among these subjects the

Among these subjects the FINANCES

properly demand the first place.

The total debt of the city on the first of January metantiwas \$18,114,191, composed of the following ac-

The permanent City Debt, rede-mable from the Sink ing Fund. 616,489,465 Less Stocks and Securities held by the Commissioners. 5,715,874	,
Actual permanent debt. The Funded Debt rede-mable from Taxation. The Treasury Loan Account. The Central Park Assessment Bonds	\$10,773,391 1,100,000 3,466,900

The Permanent Debt redeemable from the Sinking rund consisted of the following items on the let January, 1858:

Whole amount
10-Investments by C. S. Fund.
City Stocks. #5,033,880
Bonds and Mortgages. #521,994

Semption.

The Sinking Fund, it will be perceived, is in a highly prosperous condition. Created by the act of the Legislature of 1812, it has met promptly all its Kahiltina. Babilities.

By the ordinance of the Common Council of 1845, Sertain specified revenues were pledged to this fund, the receipts from which, the last year, amounted to \$570,513.

By the same ordinance a separate fund for the payment of the interest on this debt was created, to which were pledged the Croton Water rents and various other sources of city revenue. This fund has not only paid the interest on the permanent and funded date, but on account of the great increase since 1851 in the revenues appropriated to it, has accumulated a surplus amounting, on the 1st inst., to \$1,773,906 41. A part of this surplus has been advanced to the permanent sinking fund, and invested in the purchase of city stocks and revenue bonds.

Funded debt of the city, redeemable from taxation, is as follows:

Pre per cent Public Building Stock No. 3, payable from 1858 to 1866.

To 1866.

To 1866.

To 1866.

To 1866.

To 1866.

To 1876.

Total smount.

Tota

the permanent debt, is now paid from the sinking fund

The Treasury loan account consists of revenue bonds of 1857, issued in anticipation of the taxes of that year and outstanding, January 1, 1858, \$3,486,590.

This debt is made in anticipation of the annual

2axes, by authority of a provision in the charter, as follows:

"The Common Council shall not have authority to borrow any money whatever, on the credit of the Corporation, except in anticipation of the revenue of the year in which such loan shall be made, unless authorized by a special act of the Legisla-The expenditures from the City Treasury, on ac

The expenditures from the City Treasury, on acceptant of the City Government, are principally made during the year before the bulk of the taxes are reserved, and hence the necessity of this provision of the Charter.

A large sum is thus rendered necessary in the annual tax list, for the payment of interest on these revenue bonds. Last year the amount was \$255,000.

The amount called for this year is \$325,000.

THE ASSESSMENTS.

Tribe debt consists of

ASSESSMENTS.

This debt consists of

Ex Per Cent Central Park Assessment Fund Stock
psychic February 3, 1889...

The awards for the Central Park becoming due,
the Treasury was mable to meet them in consequence
of the difficulty of negotiating the stock, authorized
by the Legislature for its payment, by reason of the
low rate of interest (5 per cent). Bonds were therefore issued under an ordinance of the Common Couneil, passed on the recommendation of the Controller,
under the authority of an act of the Legislature of
1813, to the amount of \$1,000,600, redeemable from
the assessments on the property benefitted by the improvement, and which assessments were pledged for
its redemption.

These assessmente will no doubt be sufficient to pay
the bonds thus issued.

ASSESSMENT BONDS.

the bonds thus issued.

Assessment Bonds.

In 1852 the Legislature passed an act authorizing the Common Council to issue Assessment Bonds for the payment of contractors for work done in the construction of sewers, regulating and paying streets, and other work payable from assessments on the property benefitted. The purpose of the law is that conference may be paid for their work in advance of the collection of the assessments, so as to enable contractors of small means to compete with large capitalists for contracts, and so reduce the cost by greater competition.

tractors of small means to compete with large capitalists for contracts, and so reduce the cost by greater competition.

The Common Council in 1842 passed an ordinance based on this act, by authority of which contractors were paid 85 per cent of the amount of their contracts, upon a proper certificate of the completion of the same, and the balance after continuation of the assessment. This ordinance was amended in 1854 so as to authorize the Controller to pay monthly to constructor, on all contracts over \$10,000,75 per cent of the work done as it progressed, and the balance when the assessment was confirmed.

Previously to the passage of the act of the Legislature of 1852, contractors were paid only as the assessment were collected, the city then acting truly as trucker. Since then assessment bonds have been issued, to pay contractors in advance of the receipt of the assessments, and as the law authorizing them makes no provision for the time of their redemption, they have been made payable within the year of their festice.

The collections of assessments not being sufficient to

The collections of assessments not being sufficient to The collections of assessments not being sufficient to redeem these bonds thus issued as they became due, advances were made from time to time from the city Treasury for that purpose. The total advances thus made amounted in 1856 to more than \$2,000,000. In that year, on the recommendation of the Controller, an ordinance was passed by the Common Council, under an act of the Legislature of 1853, anthorizing him to issue bonds, payable in five years, to reimburse the treasury for these advances.

The following statement gives the amount of these bonds, and also the assessment bonds issued and payable within the year 1857, viz:

advances, there are assessments in arrear amounting to \$2,680,809 17, and property Furchased by the city for assessments amounting to \$438,429 13, making a tal of \$2,819,238 72.

for assessments amounting to \$100, \$100 its, making a total of \$2,819,238 72.

By the present law, no preceedings for the sale of property for assessments can be taken before the expiration of three years from the time when they become absolutely due. In consequence of this provision, each year has added to the amount of these arrears. The collection of a portion of these arrears may, however, under the provisions of the law, be entoreed this year.

From information that I have obtained, I fear that the whole amount of the arrears of assessments will not be realized. In some cases the property may not sell for the amount of the assessments, and the returns of severed of the collectors are so imperfect that it is

sell for the amount of the assessments, and the returns of several of the collectors are so imperfect that it is impossible to ascertain the amount of assessments paid to them for which no returns have been made.

After further examination, I shall make another communication to you on this subject.

Whether the public interests are promoted by advances to contractors before the collection of the assessments for the work, I am not at this time pessenged of such full information as will enable me to decide.

The taxation annually levied on the ownersof property, real and personal, for the current expenses of the Government and other trust and special charges authorized by law, is a subject of primary importance to the community and the officers to whom its imposition and expenditures are intrusted.

Were the administration of public affairs conducted to an expension of property the public and life.

and expenditures are intrusted.

Were the administration of public affairs conducted so as adequately to protect property, health and life, our citizens might overlook the heavy burdens annually imposed on them by excessive taxation; but when these ends are not attained, when property is rendered insecure through inefficiency, health endangered and epidemics at times engendered by neglect of the indispensable sanitary laws of cleanlinese, and life daily sacrificed by Folence, ruffianism and crime, through the want of energy in bringing the guilty to trial and punishment, they may well complain of these heavy drafts for the maintenance of such a semblance of government.

The great increase in our annual tax list, now largely exceeding the expenditures of any of the State Governments, demands a careful inquiry into the causes to which it is due.

The amount of taxation for the support of the City Government in 1848 was \$2,715,510. The levy for the last year was \$8,065,506. The following table exhibits the increase from 1848 to 1857, inclusive, and the valuation of the real and personal estate for the same years, as well as the rate per centum of taxation:

Statement of the Value of Real and Personal Estate in the

tion of 1857 over 1850 was as fol 1857.		066,566 230,760
Being an increase of 149 per cer The principal items of increase	ntum.	
1857 over 1850 are as follows: 1850. Appropriation.	1807.	

۰	Appropriation,	Appropriation.	TOCLERGE!
3	State Mill tax \$ 143,042	£511,740	£368,608
4	Common Schools, State 8,144	383,805	375,661
3	Common Schools, City267,908	1,100,200	832,232
3	Commissioner of Records	350,000	350,000
ũ	Alms-House	800,000	400,000
8	Interest on Revenue Bonds. 90,000	295,000	205,000
1	Interest on Assessm't Bonds	75,057	75,057
١	Interest on Assessin t Donous 200 000	488,370	198,375
1	Arrearages of previous year 290,000	255,000	255,000
H	Central Park interest	456,490	271,490
3	Lighting Lamp Dist 185,000	100,000	100,000
1	Paving Bowery & Chat'met		
1	Iron Pavement	125,000	125,000
1	Repairs and Supplies 50,000	89,544	39,544
3	Rents 2,000	30,000	28,000
H	Real Estate Expenses 10,000	100,000	90,000
3	Roads and Avenues 30,000	75,000	45,000
ä	Police492,000	825,000	333,000
1	Salarice	412,500	212,500
ı	Can there be any reduction m		
3	Can there be any reduction in	ade in the ext	Chairmic

on account of these items or either of them?

STATE MILL TAX.

It will be seen by reference to the tax levy of 1858 that the State Mill tax will be \$1,171,226 88. Last year it was \$511,740 50. There is here an increase of \$659,486 58, instead of a reduction.

The rate last year was one mill, this year 21 mills. This tax is imposed for the support of the State Government, in pursuance of laws of the Legislature. Its amount is no doubt considerably increased by reason of the higher relative valuation of property in this city, as compared with that of other parts of the State.

If an equalization in the valuations in assessments of property were adopted by the State, we might reasonably expect a reduction of at least \$200,000 on this account.

The attention of the Legislature has been frequently called to this subject, but it has as yet taken no action. I would recommend that the Common Council renew their application for the appointment of a Board of State Assessors, for the equalization of the valuations

their application for the appointment of a Board of State Assessors, for the equalization of the valuations of property throughout the State.

This city has also been compelled, by the adoption of an erroneous system of levying and collecting the State tax for the Common Schools of the State, to pay more than its just proportion of the amount (\$800,000) raised by the whole State for this purpose. The fol-

has received:		
Tax.	Apportionment.	Excess of tax
1:52	\$93,606 65	\$ 220,742 9
1858 225,670 80	95,699 15	129,971 6
1854 257,616 11	95.648 06	161,968 0
1855 271,839 40	95,648 06	176,191 3
D/6 214,257 92	88,140 95	126,116 5
1057 383,105 37	152,845 06	251,460 \$
1856 390,408 96	152,345 06	238,063 5
Mari #0.000.000.10	# 779 490 00	AT 904 516 1

COMMISSIONERS OF RECORDS.

\$500,000. When I obtain more full information in relation to the subject to the Board of Supervisors, who properly have control of the matter.

In addition to the causes which I have thus coumerited for the increase of faration, I call your attention.

to the great increase of salaries during the last few years. In 1850 the total amount paid for salaries was £00,000; it was last year ever \$400,000, and the amount called for this year is £357,000. I recommend a revision of salaries, based upon the consideration of the labor and responsibility involved in the discharge of he duties of the respective effices, being well satist I that in many cases offices may be abolished, and in others the compensation may be reduced without detriment to the public service.

SURPLUS IN THE SINKING FUND.

It will be seen also, on reference to the sinking fund account, for the payment of interest on the city debt, that a surplus remains every year after the payment of such interest. The sources of revenue heretofore piedged for the payment of such interest now yielding more than sufficient for the purpose, and increasing from year to year, they should be reduced, or the excess of the revenue from these sources be restored to the city treasury. In this way the tax levy may be materially reduced. I call your serious attention to this subject.

If then, we could have relief from the naequal tax-

materially reduced. I call your serious attention to
this subject.

If, then, we could have relief from the nnequal taxation for State purposes, a saving would be effected
of at least
The Common Schools of the city, conducted with equal
efficiency on a new and more economical system,
would make an additional saving of at least.

The excess of Sinking Fund interest account, paid into
the City Treasury, would allow a further reduction of
at least.

A proper economy in the Police, Salaries, Repairs and
Supplies, and other accounts would, no doubt, effect
a further saving of

Total.

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sequence is, that it presents a scene of common which would not be tolerated in any respectable mercantile cetablishment.

I carnestly recommend, therefore, that better accommodation be assigned to the Controller, and that a system of auditing accounts be prescribed by ordinance, which will gaard against the frauds and errors, so likely to arise in the absence of a proper system and adequate clerks.

Another important branch of the Finance Department is that which has charge of the issuing, canceling and transferring the stocks, bonds and other securities of the city. I am informed that these operations are conducted in a loose and irresponsible manner. Every guard against fraud, however honest the chief officer may be, should be provided; and I would, therefore, suggest that a new bureau be properly organized in this Department for registering, transferring and canceling the stocks or certificates issued, and that all the checks employed in the same branch of the financial business of the general government be adopted in this bureau.

Another bureau in this Department is that of THE RECEIVER OF TAXES.

He is charged with the collection of the annual taxes.

The following is the tax levy of 1857 and the taxes

Taxes.

The following is the tax levy of 1857 and the taxes received thereon to and including Dec. 31, 1857:

Amount of levy.

Tax received September.

October.

1,282,321 22

November.

5,390,377 67

December.

636,092 61

Total tax received.

Its expenditures have since that time considerably increased, owing to the increased number of persons maintained in the Alma-House. Nurseries, Hospitals and Prisons, the support and control of which belong exclusively to this Department. The property in use by this Department, belonging to the city, is valued at \$1,700,000. The expenses of this Department in 1850 were about \$400,000. There was raised last year by tax for its support the sum of \$843,000, of which only about \$650,000 will be expended. This year the amount called for is \$605,000. The institutions are all in a good condition, especially the Nurseries on Randall's Island.

In this last-named institution over 1.300 children.

In this last-named institution over 1,300 children,

and condition of its patients.

THE BELLEVUE HOSPITAL THE BELLEVUE HOSPITAL

THESE BELLEVUE HOSPITAL

Has received extensive improvements within the last
year; a large wing and an additional story have been
added, by means of which the Hospital is capable of
accommodating at least 1,500 patients. There are,
on an average, about 800 patients within its walls,
who receive the kindest nursing and the most skillful
medical and surgical treatment. It is one of the largest and best-conducted bospitals in the country.

est and best-conducted hospitals in the country.

THE ALMSHOUSE

proper, together with the Island Hospital, now previde shelter for about 2,000 persons. The number is,
of course, greater at this season of the year, and especially in consequence of the large number of persons thrown out of employment by the recent financial
disasters.

The other institutions connected with this department, including the workhouse, pentientiary and its hospital, and the prisons in the city, contain, at present, about three thousand immates, making, with the other institutions, nearly eight thousand persons, of all ages and countries, supported by the city.

This department also, at this season, assists a large number of ost-door poor. At the present time aid is afforded to 2,300 persons—a larger number than ever before at this time of the year.

The economical and judicious management of the Croton Aqueduct Department, during the entire period of ite existence, merits the highest commenda-

ried of ite existence, merits the highest commendation.

The aqueduct itself is in excellent condition. The
annual examination made last month by the Chief
Engineer demonstrates the solidity of its structure
and the skill of its builders. No injury or defect of
any extent was found throughout its whole length, a
distance from the dam to the High Bridge of 38 miles.
Within the past year additional fenenge has been
erected to protect the Aqueduct and its ground, making, with the feneing previously done, a length of
about thirty-six miles. During the past year the department has commenced a hydrographic survey of
the Croton River above the dam, which is to include
the entire valley as well as the "water shed" of the
Croton River. This survey has been undertaken to
ascertain suitable points for storage reservoirs, in
which to collect the surplus waters of the river in
favorable seasons, so that in periods of drouth a full
supply of water can be furnished to the city.

The Department has also laid, during the last season, four miles of water pipe, making, with that previously laid, a total length of pipe of all axes, of two
hundred and fifty nine miles.

The Annual recents for water times water, for the

In addition to the above, the arrears of rent collected

In addition to the above, the arrears of rent collected during the last and previous years, by the Controller, Receiver of Taxes, and Clerk of Arrears, will amount to at least \$100,000, and there remains, including the rents uspaid for the last year, about \$80,000 still to be collected. The income of the work is now more than sufficient to pay the interest on the debt created for its construction (about \$14,000,000), although no charge is credited to the Department for the use of the water in the public buildings of the city, and on Blackwell's and Randall's Islands.

The Department, in consequence of the rapid increase of population in the city and the necessity of a greater supply of water, recommended several years since the construction of a large receiving reservoir in the upper part of the city. The application was made by the Common Council to the Legislature, and an act was passed in 1853 authorizing the land between Eighty-sixth and Ninety-sixth streets and Fifth and Seventh avenues, to be taken for a NEW RESERVOIR.

The award of the Commissioners, amounting to \$108,000, was confirmed by the Supreme Court. The department has since exchanged lands with the Commissioners of the Central Park, by virtue of an act of the Legislature, passed at the last session, by which the new reservoir will conform to the natural contour of the ground, reducing the cost of its construction at least \$200,000, and by its irregular and curved exterior line giving it the appearance of a natural lake, and making it one of the most attractive features of the Park. This immense work will cover an area of over one hundred and six acres, with a water surface of ninety six acres, and a depth, when full, of thirty-eight feet.

Its capacity will be 132,038,916 cubic feet, and will contain 1,028,800,145 gallons New-York standard measure. But for the suit brought by the two parties whose bids for its construction were rejected, this immense work would have been by this time in an advanced stage of progress.

No further delay is anticip

vanced stage of progress.

No further delay is anticipated, as the General Term of the Supreme Court has decided in favor of the action of the department in the award of the con-

the action of the department of the first tract.

If the work be not delayed, it will be entirely completed, and the Aqueduct continued to it, in about two years. When thus completed, it will, together with the present upper and lower reservoirs, be capable of containing a supply of water for sixty days, when the population of the city shall exceed 1,600,000.

1,600,000.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEWERS
has, since 1849, been under the charge of this department. The sewering of the city has only become general during the last few years. Most of the sewers have been built since 1838. Prior to 1849, they were constructed in an imperfect manner, and many of them proving inefficient, have been rebuilt by this description.

	Pose. Anta ie suon	n by the follow
g table:		The second second
BLE OF EXPENDITUR		CLEANING STREETS.
Year.	Expenditures	Reneipts.
1840		\$38,711 72 °
1095	150.305 77	28,308 82
1850		32.191 60
1851		52,090,99
1052		30,077.90
1850		26,5.17 22
1854		7,009 04
1850		4,745 12
1896	396.251 73	10.502 53

be cleaned by contract, or by persons employed directly by the Department. In my opinion is should be done by contract, and the contractors held to a

are under the charge of this department. With their sites they are valued at \$1,176,000. Including in the expenses the interest on the property in use, their maintenance involves annually a large expenditure beyond the revenues received. The following table details the several items of expenditure and receipt for two years:

Form R. ats. Stands. Total. Expe.

1856. \$79,635 or \$16,183 35 \$15,286 00 \$102,000 42 \$44,000 \$1650. \$70,625 or \$17,297 99 \$15,047 67 \$104,685 27 \$46,000 \$1650. \$70,500 \$10,000 \$100. \$10,000

will require your close scratiny and supervision. An entire change in the system of conducting the business belonging to and ander the charge of this Department is absolutely required. A better and stricter accountability of the collectors of assessments, and of the manner of making their returns, should be adopted. The Charter has abolished the Department of Repairs and Supplies, and has made it a bureau in the Street Department. The ordinance lately adopted regulating the Street Department and its bureaus has, I am informed, created more offices in the Bureau of Repairs and Supplies than existed in the Od Department. I recommend a carefulrevision of this ordinance. Under this Department is also the Bureau of

The real estate and nones on seased ground belonging to the Corporation, in use by this department, is valued at \$360,000, and the apparque at \$75,000, the interest on which, at 6 per cent, would amount annually to \$22,500, making the total yearly cost of protecting the city against fires, independent of the use of the water and hydrants, about \$132,500.

The voluntary service of the members of the de-

partment, frequently bestowed at the hazard, and often the sacrifice, of their lives, has given them a strong claim to the good-will of the Common Council and of our citizens.

The introduction of steam fire-engines into the department has been the subject of consideration of previous Common Councils, and an appropriation was made last year of \$19,500 for the purpose of testing the experiment. Nothing, however, has yet been done that I am aware of toward purchasing any apparatus of this description. I recommend the prosecution of the experiment.

The expenditure upon the Fire Insurance Companies, whose profits have been largely increased since the introduction of the Croton water. It may well be considered whether these companies should not contribute to the support of the Department to an extent beyond the tax now levied on their capital stock. I recommend the subject to your attention.

CENTRAL PARK.

The land for this Park, taken by virtue of an act of the Legislature, passed IKK, has cost as follows:

The land for this Park, taken by virtue of an act of the Legislature, passed IRSS, has cost as follows:

Total amount of award and cost.

Less amount assessed on property benefited.

1,883,000 to Net amount of cost.

The Commissioners appointed by the last Legislature have advertised for plans for laying out, embellishing and ornamenting the Park, and a large number of men have been for some time past, and are now employed in clearing it of incumbrances, and doing other rough work.

When the plans contemplated are fully carried out, the Park will be the greatest ornament of our city. Thousands will daily enjoy its magnificent gardens, shaded walks, extended views, and other objects of interest which it will then afford. Its area is over seven hundred acres. It is two and a half miles long by nearly two-thirds of a mile wide.

London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, and other cities of Europe have their parks, walks and drives, but none of them will exceed the Contral Park, in the variety of its features of attraction, when time has been afforded for its improvement.

IMPROVEMENTS ABOVE FORTI-SECOND STREET.

The Central Park being in the course of improvement, the streets adjoining and in its immediate vicinity will no doubt soon be required for building purposes.

Many of these streets have not yet been opened ac-

IMPROVEMENTS ABOVE FORTY-SECOND STREET.

The Central Park being in the course of improvement, the streets adjoining and in its immediate vicinity will no doubt soon be required for building purposes.

Many of these streets have not yet been opened according to law, as it is technically called, and I would recommend, in order to facilitate their regulation and save expense to the property-holders, as well as to induce improvements on them, that all the streets above Forty-second street and below One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth street be opened by one and the same proceeding. In this way the title of the streets will be vested in the Corporation.

The cost of doing this will be small, and when done the owners of property may virtually open and work the streets at their own cost and pleasure, instead of the public. The taxable property of the city will thus be largely increased, and nuch of the tides of improvements which have aided in building up the cities adjacent to New-York will be confined to this island.

THE SECESSITY OF CONFELLING THE CITY RAILROADS to lay their rails as far as the several avenues are regulated in which they are located, is seriously felt by all the residents of that portion of the city shove the present termin of these roads. They should, in return for the grants they have received from the Common Connecl, willingly extend their several roads as the same are required by the public. Population will follow in their lead. This would materially promote the building up of that part of the city and enhance the value of property.

Enconchments having been frequently made and obstructions placed in the

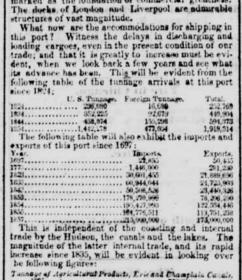
HARDOU OF NEW-TORN, by reason of the cupidity or short-sightednass of interested parties, and it being evident to those acquainted with its "noble dimensions and great capacities for commerce" that, anless they were prevented by legislative action, the harbor would be materially injured, if not entirely ruiled for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of the harbor and the information of great i

In connection with this subject the Harbor Commissioners, on the reports of the scientific gentlemen employed by them, reserved in the North and East Rivers large areas to be used as

Rivers large areas to be used as war assins.

That this city will in a few years, if it does not now, require these for the purposes of her commerce, cannot be doubted by any one who has watched and studied the increase of her trade, as well foreign as coasting and internal. In fact, they have always been marked as the foundation of commercial greatness.

The docks of London and Liverpool are admirable tracerities of year magnitude.



753,961 tons. 1,294,915 tons. 1,830,247 tons. 2,227,743 tons. 1854. X.221,740 tans.

This statement does not include the tunnage brought by railroads, which is also very large.

I would therefore recommend to you that such measures as may be necessary to carry out the suggestions. I have made in reference to this subject be adopted as

Tunnage of Agricultural Products, Ericand Champlain Carale.

early as possible.

I would also suggest that an improvement is necessary in the mode of the construction of

WHARVES, FIERS AND SLIPS.

They should be built on a plan of solidity, either of iron or stone, commensurate with the trade which they are destined to accommodate.

The construction of our wharves and piers is inferior to that of most commercial cities, and their reconstruction must soon be commerced.

I suggest that the subject be taken into consideration by your bonorable body, and that the opinion of scientific and practical men be obtained as to the best material and plan of their construction.

scientific and practical men be obtained as to the best material and plan of their construction.

I am informed that in various departments work is done under contracts that have expired, or without any contract at all. I shall give no facility to pay-ments for work under these circumstances, and I re-on mend that the heads of the departments be at once instructed to advertise for contracts in all such cases.

instructed to advertise for contracts in all such cases.

Consulssibles of emigration, have now the use of Castle Garden by the assignment of a lease to them from the original lease of the Corporation. By means of the accummodation afforded them here, they are enabled to protect and defend the emigrant on his arrival at his new home from the transa and impositions so frequently heretofore practiced upon him. This commission was established in 1847, and has invariably been composed of men known to the whose community for their high character and generous philanthrepy.

Since that time 2,500,000 immigrants have arrived at this port, bringing with them, in numerous cases, large amounts of money, and what is of still greater importance, a vast addition to the active industry of the country. The Commissioners are bound by law to provide for all emigrants arriving from foreign porte for five years from their arrival from the commutation fund, which is made up of the \$2 per capita paid by the agent or ship owner of the vessel bringing them. They have under their charge at present 2,085 persons, distributed among their several hospitals and refuges.

Engine and other houses used by the Pub Arparment.

Property in the use of the Board of Education.

Market property.

Central Park and the several other parks belonging to the city, together (eighteen in number).

Common Lands.

Ferries belonging to the city (unincteen in number, with the lots appertaining thereto).

Piers and bulkheads on the East and North Rivers.

Commuted quit rents and water grants.

city of New-York, "for such purpose, to be expended under the direction of five Commissioners named in the act.

An act was also passed for the regulation and government of the Central Park, naming claven Commissioners under whose exclusive control and management the Park was placed. Both works should be pushed forward to completion as rapidly as possible; the City Hall to give the accommodation now absolutely required for the public offices of the city; the Park for the health and recreation of the people. But I would recommend, instead of the work being done under the direction and control of the present officers, that application be made to the Legislature to give the appeintment of them to the Mayor, with the consent of the Board of Aldermen. But works are sirictly municipal, and the Commissioners who execute them should owe their appointment to the city authorities or to the people who alone, boar the city authorities or to the people who alone, boar the expense. In my opinion the number of the Central Park; a commission of three for the City Hall and five for the Central Park would insure greater expedition and seconomy.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

It being evident to me that harmony of action among the several heads of departments should exist, and also that the Mayor, in order to fulfill satisfactorily his duties, should know the measures under consideration, and the several matters in charge of each department. I am decidedly of opinion that the several heads of departments of the city government should regularly meet in council with the Mayor for the purpose of consultation in relation to the business and interests of the city, and of each of the departments and interests of the conflict of the department with each other, and insure economy in the public expenditure. For instance, the Street Commissioner has cognizance, and avenues, and of other matters enumerated in the Charter; the Croton Aqueduct Department has bythe same instrument the charge of the construction of severs and of the paving, repaving and

direction and charge of the Street Con

Foreign usurpation generally succeeds through do-mestic misgovernment, which makes the people in-disposed to resist it. There will be no successful ap-peals from the city authorities so long as they give to the people good government.

To redeem these bonds, or those which may here-

The Treasury is also in advance on this account to the amount of \$776,535 01.

In these cases the property is sufficient to reimburse the Treasury, as the assessments are equal to the award, except in a few instances where remissions have been made by the Common Council. These remissions, in my judgment, are made without authority of law.

valuation of the real and personal estate for the same years, as well as the rate per centum of taxation:

Taxmens of the Value of heal and Personal Estate in the Cety and County of New York, with the amount raised by Tax from the year 1848 to 1857, both inclusive:

Value of Value of Tol Val. Real Am't raised Rate

Value of Value of Tol Val. Real Am't raised Rate

Value of Value of Tol Val. Real Am't raised Rate

1849 - 187, 741, 596 - 84, 452, 242 - 254, 184, 183, 293, 271, 185, 107, 295

1850 - 377, 146, 178 - 78, 299, 240 - 255, 185, 146 - 3, 297, 290 - 113, 75

1851 - 227, 103, 536 - 38, 645, 524 - 255, 196, 546 - 3, 297, 290 - 113, 75

1853 - 24, 637, 255 - 166, 294, 137 - 413, 631, 322 - 254, 334 - 91, 38

1852 - 340, 755, 488 - 172, 707, 733 - 313, 799, 797, 342 - 138, 39

1857 - 352, 298, 893 - 168, 216, 449 - 351, 752, 22 - 8, 65, 506

1857 over 1850 are as follows:	1807.	Increase.
Appropriation,	Appropriation.	2.358,608
State Mill tax \$143,042	₱511,740	375,661
Common Schools, State 8,144	383,805	
Common Schools, City267,908	1,100,200	832,232
Commissioner of Records	350,000	350,000
Alms-House	800,000	400,000
Interest on Revenue Bonds. 90,000	295,000	205,000
Interest on Assessm't Bonds	75,057	75,057
Arrearages of previous year 290,000	488,370	198,375
Central Park interest	255,000	255,000
Lighting Lamp Dist 185,000	456,490	271,490
Paving Bowery & Chat'met.	100,000	100,000
Iron Pavement	125,000	125,000
Tron Pavennent.	89,544	39,544
Repairs and Supplies 50,000	30,000	28,000
Rents 2,000	100,000	90,000
Real Estate Expenses 10,000		
Roads and Avennes 30 000	75,000	45.00

on account of these items or either of them?

l wing table g years, by this back to it, and	city, the	sum a	pportion	ed and paid
has received:	240			Excess of tax
	Tax.			
1:52	#314,350 62	*	606 65	\$ 220,743 9
1856	225,670,80	9.5	699 15	129,971 6
18.54		93	648 06	161,968 0
1855			648 06	176,191 3
11.6			140 95	126,116 9
Per C	209 105 27		945 00	221,460.2

There are now twenty-two local boards, each controlling the schools of their respective Wards, independent of each other, and to a great extent of the Board of Education itself. A considerable portion of the expense of the system is due to this cause. If, therefore, instead of these numerous local boards, the whole system were under the control and government of a single Beard of intelligent and educated citizens, and if the Board thus constituted were to select a local Committee for each school from among the numerous respectable and intelligent citizens who would be happy to serve the public in this benorable capacity, a great reduction of expenditure, probably to the extent of \$200,000, would be effected without at all impairing the efficiency of the schools.

The mode in which the Board should be constituted, whether by election or appointment, is a question which can only be determined after careful deliberation, and I commend the subject to your serious consideration.

COMMISSIONERS OF RECORDS.

There has been also a large expenditure of money, on account of a body known as the Commissioners of Records appointed for the purpose of causing the records and other papers in the County Clerk's, Surrogate s and Registers offices to be indexed and printed. There has been already raised by the Board of Supervisors, on their requisition for this work, the sum of \$3.6,000.

them proving inefficient, have been rebuilt by this department.

There are now sewers making together a total length of 164 miles. Twenty-three sewers have been constructed during the last year. One of them, in point of capacity and solidity of construction, is unequaled. It is intended, with the lateral sewers which will discharge into it, to drain a superficial area of 700 acres. I recommend, as a sanitary measure, that an ordinance be passed providing that all cesspools, drains, &c., hereafter constructed, shall be connected with the sewer in the street, where one exists. The sewers themselves should, as far as practicable, be carried to the current of the river, so that their contents may be swept away by the tidal currents, instead of being deposited in the slips.

THE CONTROL AND DIRECTION OF THE PAVEMENTS OF THE CITY.

INE CONTROL AND DIRECTION OF THE PAVEMENTS OF INE CITY is also, by the recent Charter, placed in charge of the Croton Aqueduct Department. This change is a fortunate one, as the repairs are now much better done, and at a greatly reduced cost.

The department of the CITY INSPECTOR has by the Charter the cognizance "of all matters affecting the public health, pursuant to the ordinances of the Common Council, and the lawful requirements of the Commissioners of Health and the Board of Health."

In this Department is the Bureau of Sanitary Inspection and

That the streets be well and thoroughly cleaned, is demanded by our citizens, and is indispensable to the preservation of the public health.

In most of the cities of Europe and in several cities in this country, the cleaning of the streets is a source of revenue to the municipal authorities, the manure being more than sufficient to pay all the expenses. In

city, however,	a large annual er	spenditure is re-
table:	Pose. Amis is suo.	in by the lones.
E OF EXPENDITUR	LESAND RECEIPTS FOR	Receipts.
840	Expenditures \$ 149,976 73	\$38,711 72
095	150,305 77	25,308 82
850		52,090 99
£52	280,924 63	36,677 90 26,677 22
853	313,186 47	7,009 01

This table shows the receipts from the manure, and the striking decrease in the receipts from this source for the last four or five years.

The streets should not be swept during the business hours of the day, when the cost of the work must be greatly enhanced by constant interruptions. The manure should be immediately removed from the streets, and should not be allowed to remain upon the wharves.

THE MARKETS

INE FIRE DEFERENCES.

In now composed of 52 engine companies, 62 hose companies, 15 hook and ladder companies, and 4 hydrant companies, with a force numbering over 2,000 men. The apparatus is generally in good condition.

The estimate for this year for apparatus and their repairs, hose, &c., is \$60,000, including a deficiency for last year. There are other large expenditures for buildings and repairs to them, ealaries, lighting the engine and other houses, which may be estimated for the state of the state o ocether at \$50,000.

The real estate and houses on leased ground belong-

sons, distributed among their several hospitals are refuges.

CHYPROPERTY.

The value of the property owned by the Corporation has greatly increased within the last seven or eight years. In 1850 it was estimated at a valuation of about \$30,000,000. Its present valuation is at least \$42,000,000.

The Corporation own real catale, under lease, in various sections of the city, worth.

The property in possession of the Alma-House Department, including Blackwell's and Randall's blands and the binkings thereon, the Halls of Justice and the block on which they are built, Bellevue Hospital and grounds, and certain lease on Ward's Island, estimated together at.

Bellevue Hospital and grounds, and certain lease on Ward's Island, estimated together at.

Lots at Brooklyn.

The Croten Aqueduct the Reservoirs, and other property in charge of the Croton Aqueduct Department.

Property in use of the Police

Engine and other houses used by the Fire Department.

10,102,000 to 135,700 to 135,700

enabled to discharge with Vigor, its number of portant duties.

New CITY HALL. AND CENTRAL PARK COMPISSIONERS.

An act was passed at the last session of the Legislature, appointing a commission to sapariate at the rection of a new City Hall in this city, and authorising the Common Council to raise by law a sum not exceeding two millions of dollars, by the issue of a stock, to be called the "New City Hall Stock of the City of New-York," for such purpose, to be expended under the direction of five Commissioners named in

is to be done, according to the Charter, under the direction and charge of the Street Commissioner. By consultation together, at the meetings, before mentioned, the necessary information would be obtained, and unity of action secured. The Mayor would also, at these meetings, have the opportunity of consulting the heads of Departments in reference to matters before the Common Council, and which may be submitted to him officially. The want of such consultations has no doubt frequently prevented the Mayor from exercising that supervision over the Department which the Charter requires of him.

It is apparent, however, that proper harmony of action cannot exist between the Executive of the city and the heads of departments, so long as any of them derive their appointment from the people, and not from the Mayor and Common Council. I am quite clear that all the results of good government cannot be realized until the Executive is made, responsible for his administration, and olothed with the necessary powers to make it efficient. I, therefore, recommend that application be made to the Legislature to give the appointment of all heads of departments to the Mayor and Common Council at the expension of the terms of office of the present incumbents.

Several recent acts of State legislation in respect to

the appointment of all heads of departments to the Mayor and Common Council at the expiration of the terms of office of the present incumbents.

Several recent acts of State legislation in respect to this city have been the subject of great, and, in some respects just, animadversion. Their execution was confided to agents not selected by those who are taxed for their salaries, and are immediately affected by the operations of these laws. The exercise of such power by the State Legislature, in respect to the police, embodied in the act to establish a Metropolitar Police. District, having been held by the Court of Appeals to be consistent with the Constitution of the State, it becomes the duty of every good citizen to receive that decision as the law. But grave objections to such legislation still exist in undiminished force. It cannot be denied that instances of abuse and corruption in the city nuthorities may exist, rendering it necessary for our citizens to appeal to the law-making power of the State for redress. Reforms may be demanded which would be vainly sought through unfaithful agents. In such an extreme case, for our citizens to invoke the interposition of the State for their protection would be among the most sacred of rights. But we must not rashly abandon the duty and the right of local self-government. We must remember that it operates in this city on the peace and safety of a community embracing three-quarters of a million of people; and affects most intimately the interest and comfort of every individual citizen. The system must not be abandoned, but he made to work wall. Every good citizen must contribute his share of the attention, time and effort necessary to govern it, and instead of distrusting and descring the system, he must act upon it and through it.

The interposition of State authority, to change, without the concurrence of our immediate representatives, the administrative system of the city can only be justified by clear evidence, that it is called for by the voice of the people. It in

It may be advisable to preserve that fenture of the Metropolitan Police act which extends protection to such portions of the adjacent counties as may fairly

In this last-named institution over 1,300 children, from two to fourteen years of age, are maintained and educated. Many persons of respectability and worth in all parts of the country owe all that they are to the beneficent policy of this institution. Of these facts I can testify from a personal connection with this Department for several years.

The management of the Lunatic Asylum merits approval. There are now 627 immates under treatment. A steady and satisfactory improvement is exhibited both as to the general arrangements of the institution and condition of 8s patients.

disasters.
The other institutions connected with this depart-